



Pro-Life Bulletin Board

A project of American Life League, Inc.

P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555 • phone: 540-659-4171 • web: www.ALL.org

From contraception to abortion—a time line

- 1859 The American Medical Association condemns the practice of abortion.
- 1860s This decade marks the beginning of a social and political birth control movement.
- 1873 The Comstock Law is passed. The Comstock Law constituted a federal ban on the manufacture, sale or possession of contraceptives and advertisements for them.
- 1875 Every state in the United States has adopted laws banning abortion.
- 1916 Margaret Sanger forms the Birth Control League (now called Planned Parenthood) to promote contraception and abortion, and she begins her push for churches to accept contraception as morally licit.
- 1920 At the Lambeth Conference, Anglican church leaders acknowledge the contraception debate, but respond, “We utter an emphatic warning against the use of unnatural means for the avoidance of conception...”
- 1930 At the Lambeth Conference, birth control is now considered morally acceptable under certain circumstances by protestant churches. This concession constitutes a major victory for Sanger and the culture of death.
- 1961 The National Protestant Council of Churches gives its backing to unnatural forms of birth control.
- 1965 *Griswald v. Connecticut* sounds the death knell for all anti-contraception legislation in the U.S. The Supreme Court invents the so-called “right to privacy” to shield the marital bedroom and contraceptives from the reach of legislation.
- 1967 Colorado becomes the first state to allow abortion in the cases of rape, incest or threat to the mother’s life.
- 1970 Fourteen states allow abortion in certain circumstances.
- 1972 *Eisenstadt v. Baird*—The Supreme Court extends the same invented right of privacy from *Griswald* to unmarried individuals desiring to use contraception.
- 1973 *Roe v. Wade* legalizes abortion on demand using the “right to privacy” from *Griswald*. The decision strikes down all state laws that had placed restrictions on abortion saying no state had the authority to legislate against abortion for any reason.
- 1973 *Doe v. Bolton* defines the health-of-the-mother exception in ambiguous terms and further secures the right to abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy.

Pregnant and in need of help?

Heartbeat International: 800-395-4357